

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (currently amended) A flexible hose (10) comprising a flexible material (14), the flexible material (14) comprising multiple layers and a reinforcing rod (12) positioned externally of the outermost layer of the flexible material (14) and bonded to the outermost layer of the flexible material (14), the flexible material (14) being formed with terminal ends (18), the improvement being characterized by:

the reinforcing rod (12) having at least one terminal end (16) being located short of the terminal ends (18) of the flexible material (14), the flexible material (14) thus becoming a soft cuff (20) adapted to be received by a hose fitting and

the hose having a minimum and a maximum outer diameter, the maximum outer diameter created by the reinforcing rod.

2. (currently amended) A flexible hose (10) in accordance with claim 1, wherein the hose (10) is further characterized by an imprinted indent (50) extending through the length of the soft cuff (20).

3. (original) A flexible hose (10) in accordance with claim 2, wherein the reinforcing rod (12) is wound at a pitch externally of the flexible material (14) and the indent (50) is wound at a pitch greater than the pitch of the reinforcing rod (12).

4 - 14 (canceled)